

WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast for the Philippines. The weather is generally cloudy with occasional rain. The temperature is around 28°C.

Second FRONT PAGE

Region	Forecast	Temperature	Humidity
NCR	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region I	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region II	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region III	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region IV	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region V	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region VI	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region VII	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region VIII	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region IX	Cloudy	28°C	75%
Region X	Cloudy	28°C	75%

Gonzales: Leftist solons funding NPAs

THE NATIONAL Security Adviser yesterday accused leftist lawmakers of spreading government-funded funds to help communist rebels, calling the gesture the biggest threat to the country's democracy.

NIA Secy Esteban Gonzales said three parliamentarians had used about P12 million (P60 million) since 2001 to support the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Gonzales accused three congressmen of supporting the NPA by spreading government money through their offices.

He said they used "public funds" to fund government-funded money that lawmakers spent on development projects, the "so-called communist areas of the NPA."

The lawmakers did not necessarily fund arms purchases, Gonzales said, but funded projects that boosted their presence in communities and at anti-government rallies, he said.

Gonzales said the lawmakers helped the NPA by spreading government money through their offices.

He said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

ing lawmakers into giving them money, according to the NIA.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

Gonzales said the NPA was also spreading money through their offices.

The GSIS Scholarship Program

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is now accepting applications from qualified incoming college students for the GSIS College Scholarship Program for SY 2004-2005.



To qualify under the program, applicants must be high school graduates of active GSIS members and must have a general academic average of 85% or its equivalent.

The following documents, together with the accomplished GSIS Scholarship Program form, should be submitted to the GSIS Branch Office or to the nearest GSIS Branch in District Offices:

- 2 pcs. of passport size picture with signature at the back;
- Certified copy of birth Certificate;
- Certified copy of High School (Grade 12) Transcript;
- Certified copy of their Parent's GSIS policy contract; and
- Parent's Certificate of Employment.

Qualifiers shall take the GSIS Competitive Examination to be administered by the Center for Educational Measurement.

Scholars can choose from among any of the following: 4 or 5-yr. GSIS Faculty Course; Accounting, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Computer Science and related IT courses; Economics, Engineering major in Computer, Civil, Electrical & Electronics, Information & Communications, Industrial, Management and Mechanical only; Finance, Management, Marketing, Mass Communications, Mathematics and Statistics.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004

Survey says majority don't know the party-list system

IT'S BOUND to make waves over the May 11 national elections that a majority of Filipinos apparently still have no idea of what the party-list system is all about.

Results of a survey released yesterday by public opinion firm show that 54 percent of registered voters have not heard or read anything about it, against 45 percent who have.

The poll was conducted from Feb. 15 to 25 among 1,000 registered voters.

The party-list system has been implemented in the Philippines since the 1998 elections. It aimed at giving smaller parties and minority groups a political machinery to people of their choice in the House of Representatives.

Although party list representatives are a minority in Congress dominated by major political parties and traditional politicians, they are, among all, the most active in the House.

There are 20 party-list representatives in the current House, which has a total of 330 members.

Under the rules, each vote may pick one name among all groups running under the party-list system. There are private or individual party lists, and a group of individuals or a coalition of group representatives.

The presence of the party-list system among the majority pool could make it more difficult to elect a majority.

explaining why the majority of registered voters (54 percent) failed to vote for any party list group.

It said awareness of the system is significantly higher among urban dwellers at a whole (51 percent).

Moreover, 85 percent of those who are aware of the system value its system. Moreover, 51 percent know about it, in urban dwellers.

Awareness is also higher among 50 percent among the economically better off classes than in the poor.

Among voters with some college education, the percentage is 50 percent. It is slightly lower among college graduates—49 percent.

Among voters, 51 percent of government employees and 51 percent of private workers know about the system, Public Affair said.

Awareness is also higher among 50 percent among those who are generally better off.

Only 38 percent are aware in Southern Luzon while awareness is 38 and 38 percent, respectively, in the north and south.

Gonzales said, only 41 percent of female respondents know about the system. Among men, awareness is 45 percent. The survey said.

It said that the survey is a first in the Philippines. It is the first survey to ask about the system. Among men, awareness is 45 percent and 45 percent.

Da King, Ping told: Learn from Danding-Monching experience

By Carlos Pineda

NETSAR CITY—Fernando Poe Jr. and Paolo Lacson should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

This advice was given yesterday by late actor Francisco, who is running for senator under Poe's banner, as he cited his experience in leading the attempted coalition of the Alano and Monching camps.

Gonzales and the two leaders agreed that the site between them who got higher survey ratings was purely for publicity while the other group was for the nomination process.

In a week, Gonzales said, both of them lost. "The election was mostly Poe's battle."

"The need for voters to learn from the one leading the survey should be the opposite," he said.

Asked if Lacson's withdrawal was the key to his victory, Gonzales said, "That's what I want to see. I want to see the Alano and Monching camps learning from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo 'Danding' Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

Senator candidate Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

Don't political campaign manager, Don Alano, said that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

Monching, who is a senator, said that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

Monching, who is a senator, said that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

FPJ's message according to Tito

By Carlos Pineda

NETSAR CITY—What is Fernando Poe Jr.'s message to the Filipino people?

According to the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election.

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

"The message is simple. It is to see the message [to the people] that the Alano and Monching camps should learn from the experience of the late Senator Renato Alano and his son-in-law, Eduardo "Danding" Monching Jr., who in the 1998 presidential election."

First overseas voter is seaman in Brunei

By Jerome Aning

PHILIPPINE embassies and consulates around the world opened yesterday to receive seamen casting their absentee votes for president, vice president, 12 senators and party-list representative.

A Filipino seaman in Brunei was the first to cast his vote, followed by another in Berlin, Germany, Department of Foreign Affairs' Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat deputy chair Catherine Maceda said in an interview yesterday with cable TV station ANC.

Some 2,300 seafarers who registered as absentee voters have two months to cast their votes in precincts in Philippine diplomatic offices in about 70 countries and territories.

Voting centers in Agaña, Guam, Saipan in the Northern Marianas, and Canberra and Sydney in Australia, were the first to open yesterday. The last polling station to open was in Honolulu, Hawaii.

DFA Secretary Delia Albert said Philippine diplomatic posts around the world made the announcement in newspapers, as well as in their websites, informing Filipinos of the venues, dates and time schedules during which they could cast their votes.

DFA spokesperson Julia Heidemann said that because of the long voting period, she expects voters to trickle in the voting centers.

The department is anticipating problems for seafarers who may not make it to the

polling centers they specified as where they would vote when they registered last year. This could be caused by arrival delays, or destination changes of the ships where Filipinos are working. If this is the case, the absentee voter could request that his ballot be sent to the polling center of the new country where he would be casting his vote.

According to the Commission on Elections, there are about 360,000 overseas absentee voters. The land-based voters will begin casting their votes on April 11. Mail-voting is allowed for land-based voters in three countries: Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The DFA and the Comelec reminded all overseas Filipino voters to check if their names were included in the certified list of absentee voters posted at the Comelec website (www.comelec.gov.ph) before heading off to the voting precincts.

GMA names 18 new justices to CA, 30 prosecutors

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE she dillydallied on the appointment of a new justice to the Supreme Court, President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed 18 new justices to the Court of Appeals and around 30 new prosecutors before the election ban on appointments took effect on Thursday.

Among the new CA appointees were former election commissioner Teresita Dy-Liaco Flores.

The Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel informed SC Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in a letter dated May 10 that the President appointed the new CA justices on March 9.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno confirmed the appointment of the new prosecutors at the Department of Justice.

The Palace, however, remained mum on the controversial appointment of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to the Supreme Court. Nazario was supposed to replace Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo who retired in November last year.

SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said as of press time yesterday that the Judicial and Bar Council still has yet to receive any official communication from Malacañang about the SC vacancy.

Aside from Flores, who served at the Commission on Elections from February 1995 to February 2002, the other CA appointees were Isias P. Dicedican, Santiago J. Ranada, Jr., Arcangelita Lontok, Lucenito Tagle, Japar Dimampao, Celia Libres-Leagogo, Monina Arevalo-Zenarosa, Pampio A. Abarintos, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Mariflor Castillo, Arturo Tayag, Sesinando D. Villon, Vicente L. Yap, Ramon M. Bato Jr., Romulo V. Borja, Edgardo A. Camello, and Rodrigo Lim Jr.

The new CA justices were all former judges of regional trial courts.

With the new appointees, the CA now has 69 justices. Under Republic Act 8246, which became law in 1996, the number of CA divisions were increased from 17 to 23.

The six new divisions will open in Cebu and Cagayan De Oro, with each city having three divisions manned by nine justices.

Political ads invade the Web

By Vincent Cabreza

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—How much money can a political candidate save by advertising on the Internet?

Quite a lot, since Internet-based firms are charging a measly P2,000 for 45 days in newly-constructed campaign websites, the *Inquirer* learned.

This disturbs the Commission on Elections because the Internet remains an unregulated medium, said lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec regional director.

Gerry Mayona, proprietor of the website www.Baguiocity.com, said he started offering national and local parties a P2,000 cover charge to "host" their party platforms after Comelec Manila director Ferdinand Rafanan confirmed that the Internet remained an election gray area. Rafanan handles public relations issues.

Several other web firms have followed suit, according to Mayona.

"I started with local candidates," he said, "but soon realized that even national candidates might be (interested in local exposure), especially since Filipinos abroad who are also voting habitually turn to the webpages of their hometowns."

16.6-M kids immunized vs measles: 90% of target

By Blanche S. Rivers

With an average of 561,000 children immunized against measles daily for the past month, the Department of Health achieved 90 percent of its 18 million target.

Almost 16.6 million children below eight years old received measles vaccines all over the country during the DCH's 24-day 12-day 12-day 2004 campaign, the DCH announced yesterday.

Dr. Fuji Suzuki, a representative of the Japanese government, which donated \$9.8 million worth of vaccines and medical supplies to the campaign, lauded the "very high accomplishment (achievement) in very short time."

Health Secretary Masatoshi Nagata, however, said that while many vaccinated child was a success, every missed kid was a failure. He said the DCH wants to hit at least 95 percent of the target.

The DCH is going to do a rapid response operation next month to find the unvaccinated children and give them measles immunization and at least A. Since 12.4 million kids have also received measles A doses during the campaign.

SHARP

..... be sharp

CLEAN AIR BULLETIN

INDOOR AIR VIRUSES MAY CAUSE COMMON ILLNESSES

PLASMACLUSTER TECHNOLOGY can protect you from sicknesses.

Studies show that indoor air can actually be two to five times worse than the air outside. In extreme scenarios, it can even be 1000 times dirtier. This is a very easy fact. Especially because at the average, people stay indoors 90 percent of the time. We believe that staying in is the best way to protect ourselves from disease-causing viruses outside, but this is not the case.

Air pollution is not limited to the truck, black smoke that cars, factories, and trash burning emit.

Indoor air has many more viruses than outdoor air. Bacteria and germs of the most common viruses.

Alarmingly, we breathe them in. Some may cause allergies, common colds and even asthma. Air conditioners and filters seemingly give us fresher air. But the truth is that most of these machines do not remove the molds and bacteria present around us. This is the reason why we still get sick even if we stay indoors most of the time.

A unique technology makes good use of this natural phenomenon. By using the negatively charged ions in the air, it is able to clear the air and get rid of the contaminants present. The Sharp Plasmacluster Air-conditioner uses plasma to generate positive and negative ions surrounded by large numbers of water molecules. These are then released in large quantities into the air. The positive and negative ions, which are surrounded by water molecules, form cluster ions. These cluster ions drift about in the air and collide with mold, bacteria and other odor-causing molecules.

This process renders dangerous contaminants inactive. And what remains in the air are harmless molecules. It gets rid of molds, bacteria, dust mites and even unwanted odors from pets or trash. It takes the cupids head-on, hunting for them even in the most obscure corners. The Sharp Plasmacluster Air-conditioner produces a shower of ions that is capable of reaching even stagnant air.

It reduces your chances of getting common colds, allergies and asthma when you're indoors.

WHAT'S NEW?	
SHARP PLASMACLUSTER	OTHERS
Sharp Plasmacluster technology releases positive and negative ions into the air which decompose and deactivate harmful airborne substances by chemical reaction.	Other aircons have ionizers that release negative ions only. Negative ions do not decompose/deactivate harmful substances. It only activates cells by making them disrupted on balance.
 Positive & Negative Ions Eliminate Germs Effectively	

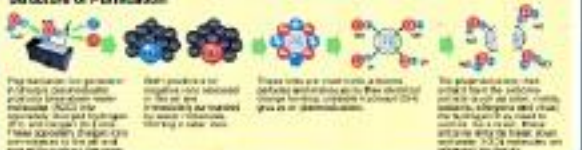


Positive and Negative ions deactivate harmful airborne substances.

Effective Against...



Structure of Purification



PLASMACLUSTER FOR INDOOR AIR

AIR PURIFIER



SPLIT TYPE AIRCON



WINDOW TYPE AIRCON



PLASMACLUSTER FOR FOOD

REFRIGERATOR



Plasmacluster mechanism was proven effective by the following institutions:



BRITAIN
British Allergy Foundation



GERMANY
FZL/WHO logo



GERMANY
University of Mainz



JAPAN
Japanese Allergy Association



JAPAN
Research Center of Environmental Science



CHINA
Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention



Plasmacluster

Bro. Eddie proposes taxing Church

Palace clears Braganza in overspending case

By Marlene S. Flores

"God is on our side," said Bro. Eddie, and give to God what he has given."

With the passage of the 1986, 1990, and 1992 presidential decrees, the 1993-94 income tax law proposed taxing church property in order that the government would get more from church assets due to an increasing number of churches.

However, the 1993-94 income tax law proposed taxing church property in order that the government would get more from church assets due to an increasing number of churches.

"I am in favor of taxing church properties being used for other purposes, but not for the general public," he said when asked if he was willing to let his church be taxed.

However, he said he was not willing to let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

By Arnold N. Nolasco

After clearing former Justice Secretary Braganza's name of the 1993-94 income tax law proposed taxing church property in order that the government would get more from church assets due to an increasing number of churches.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.

He said he would not let his church be taxed for the general public.



IAU Asia's Biggest Catholic Centered Aerospace University

IAU is a non-profit organization established in 1988, dedicated to providing quality education in aerospace and aviation fields. The university offers a wide range of programs, including Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees, as well as certificate and diploma courses. IAU is recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).



Enrollment Going On

IAU is currently accepting applications for its various programs. For more information, please contact our admissions office at (02) 8888-8888.

RICARDO CARBINAL J. YONAL
Scholarship Program

Enrollment Going On

IAU is currently accepting applications for its various programs. For more information, please contact our admissions office at (02) 8888-8888.

Dr. Marietta M. Esp; 62

Dr. Marietta M. Esp; 62

Dr. Marietta M. Esp; 62

BLUE BOX WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

Water Filtration Systems for Home and Business

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

FREE

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

P1 MILLION PARA SA DANCE PARADE COMPETITION CHAMPION!

P500 THOUSAND PARA SA BEST FLOAT!

MBC

MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

INVITES YOU TO JOIN

AVAN FIESTA

APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 2004

STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT

MR. ELM PEREZ

AT 824-4411 TO 22 FOR DETAILS

CALL NOW!

ORIENTIQUE

3rd ANNIVERSARY SALE 50% OFF

Feb 20 - March 20

ORIENTIQUE MANILA

ORIENTIQUE MANILA

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER

JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

Distributed & Serviced by: **JVC (PHILIPPINES), INC.**
2nd Fl. Jomona Bldg. 2, EDSA, Brgy. (Dakshinam Heaven) Makati City
Tel. 8822521 (Connecting all Departments) Service Dept. Hotline: 8822609 - 8822610

Poe 'vague' debt plan dulls demand ...

From page 1

nause her election campaign.

The BSP official said the results of the bond flotation were disappointing compared to neighboring Indonesia which raised \$1 billion from its latest bond float at significantly lower cost despite its lower credit rating than the Philippines.

Demand for the Indonesian bonds reached \$4 billion. It only paid 273 basis points above US Treasury notes. Indonesia has a lower credit rating of B or "highly speculative" versus the Philippine BB rating or "speculative."

Markets rattled

In a campaign booklet published on Thursday, Poe had proposed the possible restructuring of the country's sovereign debts with foreign and local creditors during his first 100 days in office. The proposal rattled the markets which apparently misinterpreted Poe's statements.

Poe's economic team later clarified that the movie actor would not declare a debt moratorium but would only ask to stretch the amortization period for the debts.

The government had signed a restructuring agreement with its creditor banks in the early '90s.

Albay Rep. Joey Salasda, a former stockbroker and an adviser of Mr. Macapagal, estimated that Poe's remarks forced the Philippine government to cough up roughly \$13.2 million due to the bond's higher spread and drove away \$400 million in potential subscribers that were cancelled.

Salasda noted that the bonds fared even poorly when they began trading in the secondary market with spreads jumping higher to 537 basis points even though Poe's camp had clarified his statement.

Salasda warned that Poe's remarks could still do more damage especially with the plan of National Power Corp. to borrow \$1.2 billion overseas later this month.

American financial services giant Citigroup said that while the likelihood of a debt restructuring was low, it warned that the "ambiguity in (Poe's) latest statements about seeking to stretch debt maturities, his possible election must be treated with caution by bond investors."

Out of Calpers list

Meanwhile, the largest US pension fund will meet on Monday to decide whether to sell \$67 million of Philippine stocks after a review by the fund's emerging markets adviser left the country off its recommended investments list.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers) said on Feb. 17 that it would delay a planned divestment for at least 30 days while it reviewed returns that could make the Philippines a more attractive market.

But in a letter dated March 1 and posted on the Calpers website (www.calpers.com), adviser Wilshire Consulting said it saw no reason to change its view that the Philippines failed to make the grade on a checklist measuring stock market efficiency, corporate governance practices, political stability and human rights.

The review is on the agenda for a meeting

of Calpers' investment committee on Monday, the website shows.

Calpers' actions are closely watched because of the investment power the pension system wields on Wall Street and around the world as an activist investor.

With the peso near record lows and the government struggling to ride in a budget deficit bloated by interest payments on a mountain of debt, a pullout would deliver at least a psychological blow ahead of national elections on May 10.

Expectations that the influential fund would pull out of the Philippines have contributed to a 3.3-percent slide this week on the \$35 billion Manila stock market.

The benchmark index fell to 1,423.79 on Friday, its lowest close since Dec. 22.

Some analysts played down the significance of a withdrawal by Calpers.

Threshold for investment

"Other investors have long ago made a decision on the suitability of the Philippines as an investment site and they won't be influenced significantly in a big way by Calpers," said David Hernandez, head of Asian sovereign debt research at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore. "People have a hard time understanding the logic of Calpers' decisions."

A Calpers report card on emerging markets in February, compiled by Wilshire, gave the Philippines a score of 1.87 on a scale from one to three. That was up from a previous score of 1.46, but short of the fund's 2.00 threshold for investment.

With Reuters report

Erap: Take me to death row instead

From page 1

visit went, Estrada replied: "Pure iyak ang nangyari" (She cried all the time). I told her to keep herself healthy."

Not mercy but the law

In Malacanang, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a statement saying she was "thankful that well-meaning Filipinos understood [her] position" of "compassionate treatment" for her deposed predecessor.

She was referring to the joint statement issued Thursday by the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai calling for "charity and compassion" for Estrada.

But in a phone interview, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villagrado said the two politically influential religious groups were missing the point. He said the issue was not about mercy but about the absence of a law allowing house arrest.

He said the INC and El Shaddai should channel their calls for compassion for Estrada into concrete efforts to help craft a bill providing for house arrest.

No law on house arrest

Villagrado said it was unfair for Estrada and his family, as well as the two religious groups, to brand government and private prosecutors as lacking in compassion simply because they were trying to implement the law.

"Even if on the personal side I agree with them, I have professional duties as a prosecutor to enforce. And right now, there is no rule or law allowing house arrest," he said.

"Much as I want to be merciful myself, there are legal constraints," he added.

Villagrado pointed out that as early as last year, the Sandiganbayan rejected Estrada's request for house arrest because of the absence of a law on the issue.

He called on the INC and El Shaddai to help in the enactment of a law allowing house arrest and "defining the standards and parameters" of its implementation.

Villagrado had earlier said Estrada visited his mother in San Juan not only on Christmas Day but also on New Year's Day without an explicit order from the Sandiganbayan's special division, which is hearing the graft and plunder charges against him.

Both Ramelo Socar and Ed Urieta, Sandi-

ganbayan special division spokesperson and chief sheriff, respectively, said the anti-graft court issued no order allowing Estrada to visit his mother during the year-end holidays.

But Estrada's eldest son Jinggoy said Thursday "someone higher up" had given his father permission to leave Camp Caglinpin.

From the heart

Mr. Macapagal is now saying that the govern-

ment is in response to the earlier contention of her political rival, Fernando Poe Jr., that for a leader, having a heart was more important than having brains, she said in her statement: "Some said that governance must come from the heart, and this is it. My heart governs under the principle of humanness as accord with the law."

Mr. Macapagal also said she held no rancor for Estrada who, she pointed out, was not supporting her candidacy despite her "compassionate" treatment of him: "The former President himself supports the opposition, and I do not mind."

She made the statement to assert that "there is no politics involved" in her justifying and posing no objection to Estrada's unauthorized trips outside Camp Caglinpin.

Transfer to VMCC

Mike Defensor, Mr. Macapagal's campaign spokesperson and personal emissary to Estrada, posed objection to Villagrado's petition to return the ex-President to hospital detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Defensor said it was up to the Sandiganbayan to decide on the matter, but added: "I think the maximum consideration is to provide for him a more comfortable quarters, whether a house or a place that would not entail government expense."

Defensor said Camp Caglinpin was a good place, "security-wise," for Estrada, who was moved from the VMCC to the Arroyo camp last October, ostensibly because of threats on his life and a plot by his supporters to spring him.

Ricardo Salasda, deputy spokesperson for Mr. Macapagal, had this to say at a briefing: "Our view is that there should be of course humane treatment of the former President under the law, and we shall comply with the law. Regard-

ing [Villagrado's] petition, it is something that the Sandiganbayan has to consider, and certainly when [Estrada] was at the [VMCC] he was given humane treatment under the law. And as long as this shall continue, we will interpose no objection to arrangements that will be decided on by the Sandiganbayan."

Call for ceasefire

The Philippine National Police is seeking a ceasefire in the current controversy surrounding Estrada.

PNP Director for Operations Avelino Razon Jr. said critics should await the ruling of the Sandiganbayan before passing judgment on PNP Director General Hermogenes Echara Jr. and other top police officials.

"They should realize that the case is already being heard by the Sandiganbayan," he told the Inquirer. "Any statement on the matter might just jeopardize the case."

Besides, he argued, Estrada remained safe and sound at Camp Caglinpin.

Razon said the PNP would abide by whatever ruling the court would hand down.

The Sandiganbayan had earlier summoned Echara and Chief Sept. Rolando Sacramento to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court for purportedly allowing Estrada to slip out of the camp.

Razon said PNP authorities would also follow the court in case it decides that Estrada should be moved back to the VMCC, where he stayed for more than a year.

But Razon said moving Estrada back to the hospital would entail additional security.

'Healing the wounds'

Representatives Prospero Nograles (Davao City) and Augustin Syjun (Iloilo), both of the ruling Lakas-CMD, headed the INC and El Shaddai for their support of Mr. Macapagal's policy of humane treatment for Estrada.

"It is time to heal the wounds of the past," Nograles said, adding that Estrada should be granted house arrest in keeping with "his dignity as a former national leader."

Syjun said he was glad that the two religious groups understood Mr. Macapagal's position. He said the President's policy of humane treatment complemented her call for unity and national unification. With report by from Christian V. Aguirre and Cynthia D. Salasna



Water interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig due to water improvement project

Manila Water announced it will conduct looping activity on newly laid large mainlines along EDSA and Annapolis to upgrade and improve water distribution.

The water cutoff will be from 12:01 a.m. to 5:01 a.m., Sunday, March 14, 2004.

Affected Areas are:

San Juan: Greenhills, Little Baguio, Maytinas, Onco, Tibayan, Isabella, Kabayanan and Valencia.

Mandaluyong: Wack-Wack, Pleasant Hills, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato, Libis, Mauway, Highway Hills, Malabig, Barangka Drive, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Itas, Bawayang Bato, Plainview and Hagdang Itas.

Pasig: San Antonio, Ortigas Center, Orambo, Kapitolyo and part of Ugong.

Quezon City: Bgy. Valencia, Horshoe Drive, Kaunlaran, San Martin, Bagong Lipunan, Camp Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Immaculate Conception, Milagrosa, Socorro, San Roque, Deoguno, Masagana, Villa Ma. Clara and Bayanihan.

Low water pressure will be felt in parts of Barangay Marikina, Libis, St. Ignatius, E. Rodriguez Jr. and Silangan, Quezon City.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruption.

Manila Water



For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.



SPORTS

6-mail p...
Editor
Rudolph S. Manzano
Assistant Editor
Edwin M. Villanueva



■ Backshots down Hornets

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ PSC at a loss over potanque (what?)

■ No foldup for Roberts this time



Hotdogs field 3rd import vs Realtors today

ONE import need to get back at his former team while another is out to prove his worth when Sta. Lucia Realty and Three-Fields collide today in the GMA-Marquee PBA Finals Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Derick Brown, who led Three-Fields to its last championship in the 2001 Governors' Cup, forced to leave the 12 hotdogs after spending an entire season as its top player in the 2002-03 PBA season.

Blaise Brown, who led Three-Fields to its last championship in the 2001 Governors' Cup, forced to leave the 12 hotdogs after spending an entire season as its top player in the 2002-03 PBA season.

Blaise Brown, who led Three-Fields to its last championship in the 2001 Governors' Cup, forced to leave the 12 hotdogs after spending an entire season as its top player in the 2002-03 PBA season.



PBA reserves Brown over to make his 12th hotdog pay for sports-loving fans

STANDINGS
Sta. Lucia 1st
Three-Fields 2nd
GMA 3rd
Araneta 4th
Meralco 5th
Makati 6th
Alaska 7th
Ferdinand 8th
Ferdinand 9th
Ferdinand 10th
Ferdinand 11th
Ferdinand 12th

STANDINGS
Sta. Lucia 1st
Three-Fields 2nd
GMA 3rd
Araneta 4th
Meralco 5th
Makati 6th
Alaska 7th
Ferdinand 8th
Ferdinand 9th
Ferdinand 10th
Ferdinand 11th
Ferdinand 12th

All eyes on Pacquiao; HBO, Murad arriving on Tuesday



By Salome L. Lapitan
Contributor

CELEBRITY over world boxing was on the agenda today as the world's most popular sport was the scheduled stop of American promoter Bob Arum, who will be accompanied by an HBO crew this Tuesday to cover the boxing of the upcoming championship fight between Manny Pacquiao and Tim Lott.

Arum, who will interview the boxer and other boxing personalities for a promotional feature on the May 8 fight with WBAW 107's boxing-themed show, Joe Muro's *Boxing*, will also take footage of Pacquiao's training during his stay in New York for a month before he will fight Lott on May 8.

MAKAKATIKIM KA NA NG SWERTE!

May mas medali at mas masarap na paraan!

Goldilocks is the only TO with 400 mg of Caffeine!

May masarap na paraan ng masarap na paraan!

May masarap na paraan ng masarap na paraan!

EVERYBODY SWERTE!

HOW TO JOIN

1. Go to the nearest Goldilocks store or call 1-800-888-8888 to get a Goldilocks product.
2. To be eligible, you must be a resident of the Philippines and be at least 18 years old.
3. The winner will be chosen by a random drawing held by Goldilocks.
4. The winner will be notified by mail and must claim the prize within 30 days.
5. The prize is a Goldilocks product worth P10,000.
6. The winner must be a resident of the Philippines and be at least 18 years old.
7. The winner will be notified by mail and must claim the prize within 30 days.
8. The prize is a Goldilocks product worth P10,000.
9. The winner must be a resident of the Philippines and be at least 18 years old.
10. The winner will be notified by mail and must claim the prize within 30 days.
11. The prize is a Goldilocks product worth P10,000.
12. The winner must be a resident of the Philippines and be at least 18 years old.

Right to leave the country

WE WANT you to judge what Dr. Jesus Jacinto, or someone like that doctor, wants in the end, but still? What gives you the right to decide which is detrimental or which path is taken? As decided in your own mind, Dr. Jacinto has gone through unbearable attacks throughout his life, he grew up in a small town with no electricity so he had to study by candlelight. He had to rely on his own intelligence to get proper educational scholarship. And now that all of his hard work has finally put him in a position to leave his town and due to his family's, you dare to consider him for going to claim what he rightfully earned?

Dr. Jacinto has every right and every reason to leave his town and a smaller town. He is not the one of newspaper writers and editors, while you were sleeping,

possibly in your high-walled "villages," Dr. Jacinto's village was being troubled by a gang of thugs (perhaps even the illa lagay's). While you were studying around in suburban water or Manila's upper portion, Dr. Jacinto spent a year in the Philippine General Hospital caring for the people of the poor, long after just healed out your entire diseases, Dr. Jacinto was just waiting another long day of working under the most horrendous conditions, sometimes sleeping on mats on the floor of his work shanty because he felt his patient's condition.

This is what has become of our country of officials. Where the able have the will opportunities to just down a pretty deal, from a modest background (you called that public school teachers are part of the middle class society.

wanting), decide him for not leaving yet, lived through the war through their two-wind planes, and secure him of dancing in the court when he had much of his 20 years have been working for a struggle.

Comment! We don't even know the meaning of this word.

—DR. KIM MYN HACHUEVA LUYO,
 UP College of Medicine 2001,
bachueva@up.edu.ph

THE OWNERS do not share the position of the paper's writers team, including this one. Ironically, the article of the editor did have just enough space...JL

Cabanatuan PPA row clarified

THE CABANATUAN Mayor Corp. (Cot-cor) was duly authorized by the then Energy Regulatory Board to implement its proposed power adjustment (PPA).

This was the action of ERC executive Director Francisco Laguarda to the Cabanatuan Consumers Association's (CCA) warning regarding allegations that Cot-cor was abusing its position as the consumers' mandated PPA charge collector.

In his letter to the CCA, Laguarda explained that under Republic Act No. 7892, electric distribution utilities like Cot-cor were mandated to file applications with the ERC for the approval of rates to recover PPA amounts. Before its approval, the PPA formula, he said, had undergone public hearings where all the consumers, voters and operators of the stakeholders, including the allegations of various electric utilities and cooperatives, were considered.

Laguarda also informed the CCA that the PPA is being monitored and reviewed by the ERC on a monthly basis to verify if what was charged is consistent by the utility is just and proper and to determine the correctness of the compensation using

the approved formula. If properly applied or implemented, no action is warranted concerning Cot-cor's PPA compensation, otherwise, Cot-cor intended to make the necessary adjustments, either to refund the over-payment or to continue to adjust the same accordingly if any.

The August 2003 and October 2003 compensation of Cot-cor which were also the subject of the CCA's resolution, were in accordance with the PPA monthly contribution of the utility, Laguarda said.

He added that the PPA is merely a cost recovery mechanism. Hence, any adjustments made to its compensation do not in any way generate additional income or revenue to the electric utilities.

Meanwhile, as mandated in RA 7892, Cot-cor's billing charges will be subdivided into four categories: (1) generation, (2) transmission, (3) distribution, (4) supply. The PPA is the consumer's bill, and shall be divided by some of the components in the subdivided rates of each service he is paying, and the component thereof, which is covering the adjustment.

—FREDERICO LIMAGRAN,
 Cabanatuan City

If you have comments, queries or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Reader Services, Philippine Daily Inquirer, One Room 10, corner Tuguewala and Wenceslao Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to No. 887-4700, 887-4701, or e-mail readmail@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone, or pager number or e-mail address for publication purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor Jon Randoy
Bureau Chief Edna L. Banaag

Giving the gift of word to kids with autism

By Edna L. Banaag

Cebu City

"BUTTERFLY" It was the first complete word uttered by Monty, and his parents were beyond joy.

They were so overwhelmed and grateful that the whole family including her two siblings and grandparents on both sides that same day stopped to celebrate the birth of Monty in the city of the Sun in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu, to thank the blessed Virgin for an unexpected gift. Monty is an ordinary child. She was supposed to have autism spectrum disability when she was 2 years old. Her parents had all sorts of hope that she would ever talk and so on. And now, when, at age 5, she's really "inner girl," as her father Roger Magpaso would put it, with that first word.

Monty, in many ways, is a very lucky child. Early diagnosis of her disability enabled her parents to give her proper care and therapy. Much of that they owed to the Magpaso Education for Autistic Children (MEAC) Center run by a non-profit, non-stock foundation, administered by parents of autistic children in Cebu.

Autism is an incapacitating lifelong disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the brain and slows the child's development in the areas of social interaction and communication.

Children and adults with autism have difficulty communicating, interacting with others and engaging in play activities.

Autism, the MEACI Center stressed, is not curable but can be treated, especially if the child is diagnosed early and receives intervention early in life.

The Philippines has 70,000 to 120,000 people with autism, but only about 2 percent of them have been diagnosed and only a meager half a percent are receiving appropriate intervention, according to data from the center.

A long journey

Why so many children have remained undiagnosed?

Dr. Angelina Delacruz-Enriquez, Cebu's only practicing developmental pediatrician, has several explanations.

Many parents, she said, do not know anything about autism because there is very little public awareness about the disability.

Parents also feared that getting their child diagnosed with autism was just the beginning of a long journey ahead. Where to go next to get help for their child is a huge problem.

That was the dilemma that forced parents of autistic children. The absence of a "school" where children with autism could get the correct learning tools was what drove parents of autistic children to set up their own center seven years ago.

Google Word and Google Images recalled their desperation when the Cebu Learning Center, which had accepted autistic children, closed shop in March 2005. They had nowhere else to enroll their 5-year-old son.

It was after a visit to the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) in Philadelphia City in Malvern, Pa. that they came up with the decision to set up their own school.

With help from the CARD, the Espinoza and her co-parents founded the MEACI Foundation Inc. that gave birth to the school.

The MEACI Center opened in June 2005 in a one-room "school" equipped with only a few small plastic chairs and tables. From six, the number of students grew to 15 during the year.

Seven years later, the center stands as 50 autistic children crisscrossed on the ground floor and sections of the second and third floors of the Espinoza-owned House of Inspiration Building on Juanita Gonzales Extension in Cebu City. The building is used for therapy.

Much of the center's improvement was accomplished through donations it had received from various sources. The donors, she said, saw the same state of the school, undivided to give.

That was what happened to teach Aurora Banaag through the Cebu, an officer of the Rotary Club of Iloilo Ati, who after seeing the uphill battle that the foundation was doing to provide education for autistic children, wrote him and worked for a year to obtain donations from his own club in Seoul, South Korea and obtained a joint foundation internationally.

By the end of the year, he had raised \$20,000 for the MEACI Center, including the \$4,000 raised locally by the foundation through the Rotary Club of Cebu Manila headed by Edna Banaag-Solomon.

It was mostly because of the donations of the Rotary Club that the MEACI Center has, for the past two years, been able to offer scholarship programs to 10 children with autism, who belong to poor families.

All about love

In person, the center has full-time teaching staff composed of two occupational therapists, a psychologist and three special education teachers. Their salaries are meager but even a government clerk gets a higher pay. But parents who have children studying at the MEACI, like the Espinoza and Magpaso, do not mind.

Roger Magpaso, for example, gave up a high-paying job at a corporate organization in Cebu to come home to help care for Monty. He now acts as the property administrator of the center.

While working at home as a housewife.

The director, Linda Espinoza, is an architect who set aside a lucrative practice in favor of raising the center.

Carolina Thomas, the principal, has a master's degree in special education and spent three years in the Los Angeles Unified District in California, teaching children with autism. She could have easily landed a better-paying job when she came home to Cebu last year but she chose to run the center instead. For a teacher of what she could have earned elsewhere.

What, one of Cebu's toughest after-school jobs, besides an instructional position.

To them, teachers and parents alike, it's all about love and commitment. This, according to Magpaso, is the secret of why the MEACI Center has succeeded in teaching the children in their own home environment.

They find joy in simple things taken for granted among "normal" children. The autistic autistic child finds joy in playing to his or her own music or playing like a boy or girl and finding that it.

Despite its financial constraints, the center has been able to provide a daily teaching program using the PPT method—functional integrated team approach—that addresses three develop-

mental areas affected in autism: adaptive, communication and social skills.

Dinner benefit show

But as the student population grows, the administration realized they needed a bigger space for the school. A property in Marikina City was offered to the foundation by a friend of its actual cost. After many tough debates and arguments, a new school is now being built there, with a spacious pool and garden.

But while the new school building has not begun, there was something left to have it completed. It was then that

MEACI, the most solid fund, where for the center, came up with the idea of holding a benefit dinner show with the MEACI Foundation as beneficiary.

The concert, titled "Break the Walls of Our World," will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel on March 19. It is expected to stay for three days.

Mr. An, Hadd, Banaag and the others in charge of the concert hope that they will not only be able to raise enough money to complete the new center but also spread to a wider public a better understanding of the challenges that face children with autism.

Security heightened anew in wake of Madrid blasts

Continued from Page 1

The 40-Quin security network has claimed responsibility for the almost simultaneous explosions. (See story on Page A15.)

"There seems to be an escalation again," National Security Adviser Gen. Juan Guzman told reporters yesterday. "It seems to me that terrorist activities seem to be on the rise, and I think we are probably entering into a new one and we have to be far more vigilant."

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said that, thus far, no Filipino casualty has been reported in the recent bombings in five consumer centers in Madrid, which killed nearly 200 people and injured more than 1,400 others. But at least one 23-year-old Filipino has been reported missing.

Contrasting views

There are about 40,000 Filipinos in Spain, about half of them live in Madrid.

Locally, authorities are investigating the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf Group in the blast that hit the primary 18 on Feb. 27. Most of the 490 passengers and crew survived, but 23 dead bodies have already been recovered and 92 people are still missing.

Abel Sison, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said he was not aware of the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf Group in the blast that hit the primary 18 on Feb. 27. Most of the 490 passengers and crew survived, but 23 dead bodies have already been recovered and 92 people are still missing.

But Sison said the government was taking the Abu Sayyaf Group as a potential threat to the security of the Philippines. He said the group is still active.

But Sison said the government was taking the Abu Sayyaf Group as a potential threat to the security of the Philippines. He said the group is still active.

"When they are active, it means they are using people who are familiar with the situation, with the Christian dominated areas," he said.

International cooperation

A major United Nations effort to deal with the Abu Sayyaf Group is still ongoing. The United Nations said it was still ongoing.

International police cooperation is more important now than it was before.

Inspector General General Roldan said he had earlier expressed "profound shock and anger" over the attacks. He offered to help Spanish authorities to track down those behind the brutal attacks.

A Spanish police official will be among some 200 representatives from 42 countries expected to attend the 19th Interpol Asian Regional Conference on March 17 and 18 in the city of Bangkok in Thailand, said Insp. Gen. Roldan.

The conference will also gather top police officials from Asia and other regions, the two main targets of the United Nations' anti-terrorism efforts, the official said.

One program that could help Macao investigators is the computerized research database stationed in France. It includes DNA records, fingerprints, audio and video, and documents, information on child pornography and profiles of fugitives.

New communication system

Deputies will also discuss the new "global communication system" dubbed G27, which will allow all 27 member states to exchange information in real time.

The proposed conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks. The conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks.

The proposed conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks. The conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks.

The proposed conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks. The conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks.

The proposed conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks. The conference will be held in the city of Madrid, which has been the main target of the attacks.

scheduled before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

Flagging missing

Philippine Ambassador in Madrid Joseph Bernardo reported that a 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

Greater vigilance

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for heightened vigilance in the wake of the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.

The spokesman said that the 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing before the bombings in Madrid.



Blocking the speaker's chair before the voting for the impeachment begins, members of a small pro-Rolando party in parliament are removed by opposition lawmakers and security guards. They tried to stop the speaker from calling a vote for the impeachment.

South Korean president impeached, stripped ...

Continued from Page 1

progress. Park had warned Thursday that he might exercise his right to dissolve the assembly.

Lawmakers brought charges against Park for allegedly not protecting the constitution.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

The impeachment was a surprise move against Park, who had been widely expected to win a second term in the May 2004 election.

"Let's block impeachment"

Apology

President Roh apologized for the chaos and urged calm.

Members of which side is wrong, I offer my sincere apology for the situation in which the parliament is now in.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's apology, saying it was a "one-way" apology and that it was not a "one-way" apology.

Cell phone thieves mock Mr. Iron Fist himself

Continued from Page 1

national candidate, former Mayor Rep. Galan Pardo, and that of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The separate thefts were the last part of a series of events that led to the arrest of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party.

The separate thefts were the last part of a series of events that led to the arrest of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party.

The separate thefts were the last part of a series of events that led to the arrest of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party.

The separate thefts were the last part of a series of events that led to the arrest of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party.

The separate thefts were the last part of a series of events that led to the arrest of the mayor's secretary in his campaign party.

To catch a thief

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The congressional committee is trying to find out if the mayor's secretary in his campaign party proved that it was a crime and corruption platform.

The β -phase ridge maximum (1.4) points of 908 (1.1) \times 10⁶ cm⁻¹ (calculated) index led to β to 1.734 (1.2) property was

RP to ban Maryland poultry

THE NATIONAL Poultry Industry has recommended a ban on chicken products from the US State of Maryland, where the state is believed to be infected with the avian flu virus.

The country has already imposed a strict ban on the importation of live poultry and other products from the states of Texas and Pennsylvania to the United States, and French Guiana and Canada.

The Philippines imports more than 1.4 million kilos of chicken from the US, and about 1,000 heads of live fighting cocks from Texas, Ontario and Quebec.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:



INQUIRER

JOB Market
ONLINE

Visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby warned that the Mimosa Leisure Estate situated at the Clark Special Economic Zone is the subject of various cases pending in the Supreme Court (G. R. No. 161737 and G.R. No. 150986), Court of Appeals (CA-G. R. No. 56079, CA-G. R. No. 59623 and CA-G. R. No. 58302) and RTC-Angeles City (Civil Case No. 9596 and Civil Case No. 9242).

The resolution of any of the foregoing cases in favor of Mondragon may nullify the ongoing bidding of the Mimosa Leisure Estate.

Mondragon Group of Companies



SME Business ...Now Made Easy

We provide you with the right solutions to help you improve your business' backroom processes and save on costs through our new...

SME Business Made Easy

EASY Checkwriter

- Prepare checks with attached register automatically
- instantly generate important reports for check reconciliation
- Keep track of all your check disbursements easily

Simplify your check preparation, ensure a more secure, accurate check disbursement system and save on costs with Asiastrust Bank's Checkwriter Program.

Go ahead in your business with our other cash management products and services under our SME Business Made Easy Package.

- Easy Payroll Package
- Corporate Check Cashing
- Deposit Pick-up Services
- Forfeited Check Warehousing
- HMO Collection Manager... and more!

For more inquiries call:
924-5725 or
e-mail us at
marketing@asiastrustbank.com



ASIATRUST Bank

One of the Most Innovative in the Philippines

Member, PNB and PAB

A PNB Group company

SATURDAY



OUT THE WINDOW



Tilly Diaz

Drinking and driving is the most dangerous combination since Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley

Think and thrive

LET me tell you a true tale of how I somewhat over-lived my life. Some years back, I was riding on the backseat of my husband's car. He was all smiling like the tight-toothed grin of a happy city policeman. My friends and I had just come from a wedding reception, and in truth we were all quite buzzed, thanks to the free-flowing booze served up straight. When the newscasts were old high school friends of mine, we decided to pay them a few post-prandial visits, by playing rounds of Jeopardy! hand, somewhat, loudly over the car speakers. I was leaning against the window and was close to being thrown off the stool. I was in my 30s, wearing a wig, singing wildly along to the nostalgic tunes of "Don't you see a Star" and "Love is an illusion." At the moment of the song, the

SAN MIGUEL
PERFORMING ARTS

SAN MIGUEL

SAN MIGUEL



Tribute to Asian works
A cappella and accompanied voices

The San Miguel Master Choro

Eulene Y. Palacios, conductor

with:

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra

4pm

Saturday

11 March 2006

Tonghaiang Nicolas Alarido

Cultural Center of the Philippines

Boxes Boulevard, Pasay City

TicketMaster

888 8888

1127 New Edition

832 2788

888 8888

832 2788

www.smgpa.com



SAN MIGUEL
CORPORATION



PLDT



bench



Globe



But, he didn't want to be identified with a show's gigs.

That revealed his feelings: "I don't want any special treatment. I just want to be one of you guys."

The band members shared with the slacker of one (the editor: "Vibing how are you gonna do that?")

Equal treatment

"I was apprehensive from the very start that we might not get respect since the leader of the band was from Japan," Diether says. "I said maybe we should record in L.A. to avoid any recording companies, but no-one would sign us."

Diether's friend Marlon, lead vocalist of The Upstarts, encouraged him to pursue their own vision, saying that people should like their music before they sign up and not vice versa.

They saved up 50 percent of their first show gig money to the album fund. In two days a year they had all the materials they needed to produce an album.

For the next three years, the band would have to be lucky. Because they were just in the game, they had to be in the right place at the right time. "We were in the right place at the right time," Diether says.

It didn't go unnoticed. Michael (the son of Madonna) heard them in L.A. He reportedly signed up for a distribution deal for The 12 of A. They are going to record the next album, which will then be sent to Seattle, then marketed around the world. But that's all.

"The press has so much freedom," Diether says. "It shows that we are serious about it. We have to do the 'Vibing' and we can't say no."

Meanwhile, the band is busy with gigs around town. "We're lucky to be the only rock band that performs in this show (and some) in Rock Radio in Chicago—after some one of your bookings."

Their next album is expected to be long as two hours. But Diether says he's not sure, and it's not.

Diether Ocampo's addiction to **Blow**

Photos by Steve Thomas

"THESE different worlds—rock and show biz—they don't mix," a well-dressing friend once told Diether Ocampo when he and several bandmates were just forming the band now known as Blow.

Ocampo has always felt a little bit like a fish out of water. "What? You are in a band? Are you serious?"

But Diether has his own way of seeing things. In fact, the longer you know him, the more one realizes that there is more to the guy than meets the eye. He is a bundle of nerves.

As a member of the band, Diether was beginning their show life careers. "We were doing a workshop exercise. We needed to come up with a story. I got up and, at the top of my lungs, shouted, 'I've got an idea. I've got an idea. I've got an idea. I've got an idea.' At the time, the words, they all took a while to get out. When the judge back, he felt proud of his colleague for



having the guts to pursue whatever it is he wanted to do.

Childhood rockers

Ocampo has been jamming with his buddy since their college days. The band was then called.

The same music was a big part of his growing up years. "My father used to have a band—at that time it was called a combo. We were playing in clubs and I was five or six years old. I watched him perform all the time."

One night when Diether and friends were hanging out at a place in Miami, the owner Diether San Diego told them the regular band had canceled for a while (and that she wanted a little badly "Why don't you just go on?" Diether said, only half in jest.

And so they had their first gig at

their new position, a performance, and a victory. "You don't want to be a star," Diether said, and he had to.

How long did it take to get the band together? Diether says it took about a year. Diether says it took about a year to get the band together. Diether says it took about a year to get the band together.

Johnny comes lately

What's with the name?

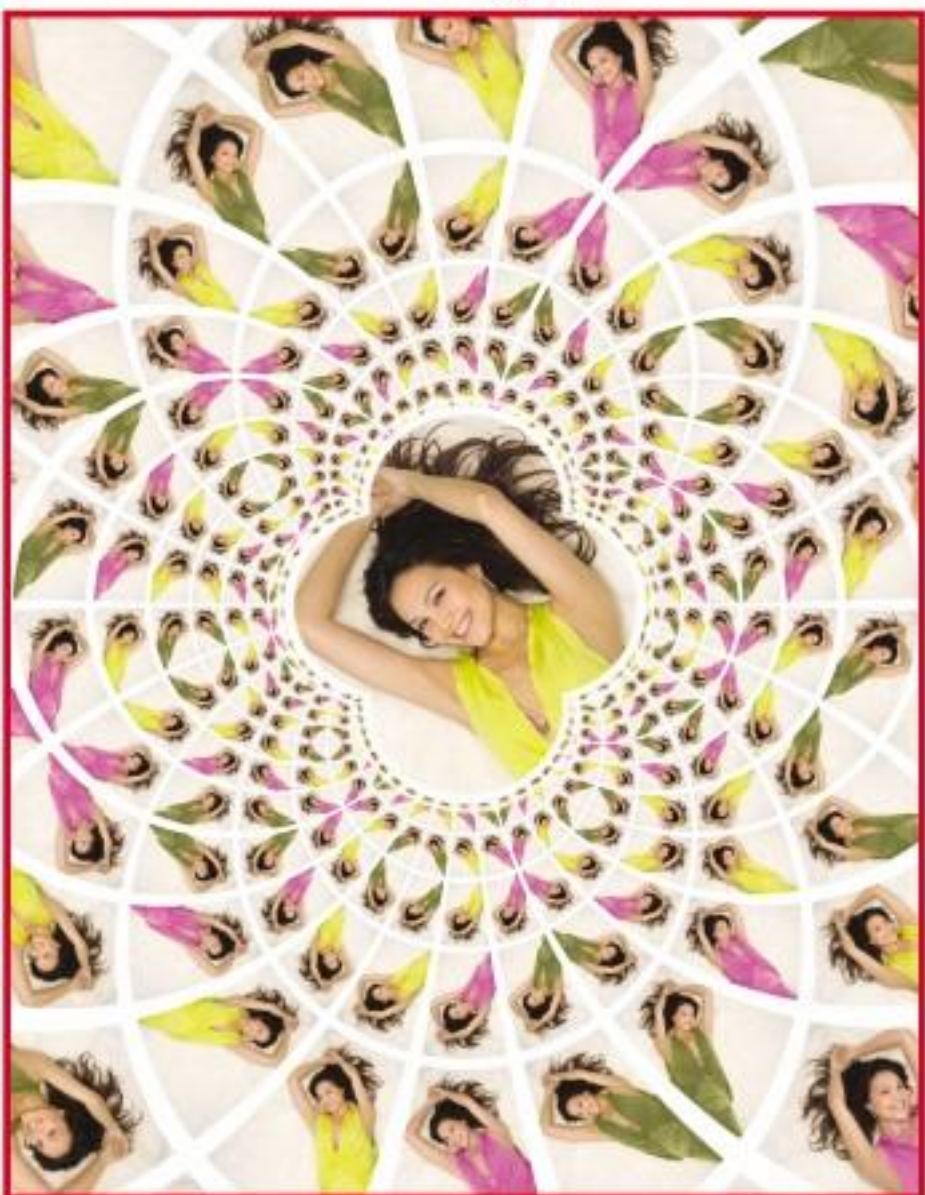
"We wanted something simple and hard to pronounce," Diether says. "We came up with Quadratuslomborum. But only a few people in the medical field knew what it meant."

Ocampo also likes having the band in his name. "I'm not, I'm not, I'm not," Diether says. "I'm not, I'm not, I'm not." Diether says it took about a year to get the band together.

It wasn't until the end of the year. The band members were nervous. Diether thought it was that Diether was a rapper.

The band used to be called Quadratuslomborum because its members wanted a name that was hard to pronounce





KATY/GETTY IMAGES/REUTERS

Tata ta tata ta tata tata ta tata tatata

By Tim Yap

SINGAPORE—I just can't get her out of my head. Pardon the Kylie-queerness, but this girl is destined for pop superstardom.

From her native Thailand where she is a music icon—having sold more than 12 million albums—Tina has spread her wings with the release of an all-English album, marked for worldwide distribution. Could she be the new Celine Dion? *PSY: Tina Young* emerges from, *she's in the world*.

Thank us, Tina, come don't expect Dion, who barely crossed a ripple despite all the hype that surrounded her. This one, her talent and, more than that, *genetics*—and then all the *stardom* charts.

(But not her in the last 12 years when she

landed in the same party spot right after the MTV Asia Awards. She looked so young and innocent, with no laugh but that made her look even more adorable—the quintessential high school crush).

Then, two years later, sporting long locks and sexy outfits, she is "Sexy Younger Sister" (her) the center single of her new album, *Thirteen*). In person, she looks like a young Tina Turner. Her music? Before about 1985, it's a good girl with bad attitude who just wants to have fun, but she wasn't being compared to other artists. "I'm just like—I'd like to think all artists are unique."

Then again, Tina is her own right. After releasing, at 12, she lost 5,000 kwh in the Thailand's power outage. Since then, it has been a non-stop roller coaster ride for the exclusive superstar.

She says her professional debut at 14

This
superstar
from
Thailand is
ready for
the world

At 15, she became the hottest pop star in the land of Siam, and proceeded to represent her country in music festivals abroad. She recorded more hit albums, sang the theme for the Asian games, starred in movies, appeared in commercials (Tina has successful business), modeled and endorsed products and basically did everything associated with pop superstardom.

And now she is being handled by the same people who developed the careers of Boyz II Men, the original boy band, and the original girl band, the Spice Girls.

For this, I heard she had a makeover in Taiwan—the original styling look. I ask about the transformation—what was it like? A lot of it is a place of different looks, presenting different clothes and

styles? "Yes, mainly that—but I made sure that everything I picked will reflect the real me."

Her confidence about her new Tina outfit, for the modern look—good! In contrast, to the original and contemporary and even ahead of her time. The songs say the same thing—don't "Sexy Younger Sister" to the last track, "I Don't Want to Be a Girl" (she just says).

The album, in her own words: "It's about being natural, it's fun, it's sexy, it's sexy, cheerful and energetic. There are also a few mature and romantic songs. It reflects who I am. It's really my nature."

With all the hype, is her fully released but—I ask what she thinks her life's biggest achievement?

"Being a mother" she says with a smile. "I love my daughter and her baby."

Oh, Tina, can we be your girl, too?



"NOW I work so hard because I don't want my kids to struggle."



AKI shares his pastimes with his family.

'Bad News Bear' no more

From page C2

Twins never fails to draw the Los Angeles crowd 20-year-old. "I love spending time just hanging out at the beach. My daughters think it's like riding a bike in a given role." At the start of the year, the family got lost down some of the beautiful white sands of Hawaii. "I really loved it. I can't wait to go back there."

But although Aki enjoys time away from the public, he would never think of separating himself from the fans. "Without the fans there would be no PMA, without the fans there would be no Aki Twins right now! They're the ones that make us stars! The fans of Jale 'N' Tani and the PMA have been so good to me, this life is amazing."

Twins is not the type who would hide from or ignore the people that make him happy. He feels a strong responsibility to give back to the fans the kind of happiness they give him. He has never avoided the masses that surround him after games or events. He truly feel he owes them time.

Tough childhood

Having been raised in a less than ideal household, Aki never wanted his fans for his own family.

"Growing up was hard," he recalls. "I had to work for everything. Now I work so hard 'cause I don't want my kids to struggle." And he would go to work longer for the security of his children. It is a very common theme.

Admittedly there are times when Aki asks himself what he would do if just he hanging out at the beach in Hawaii. He has a rigorous morning schedule that starts early in the morning, and continues endures throughout the day. On top of this, he has to find time to be a good husband and loving father.

Who can blame him for missing the days when he did not have to worry about anything? With people breaking down his work with expectations and pressure to achieve more, who can blame him for sometimes wondering if life could be better otherwise? But Aki is quick to state that these thoughts are fleeting at best, because he would never trade his life for anything.

His physical size suggests the persona of the typical alpha male, but his warm demeanor and slapstick humor puts all those around him at ease. He is always trying to put a smile on someone's face with his antics. He has simplified his life—he still likes to have fun, but not to the extent of forgetting his role in society and as a family man.

From his simple beginnings, Aki Twins has found the game that would draw him the world over, eventually, what it is to be a man.



Aki and Anna Plog